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NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Congress Decides an Army of 175,000 Is Enough, Despite "Yellow Peril."

HOUSE DECLINES TO GROW

Apportionment Measure Leaves Membership at 435 — Harding Goes to Florida Without Announcing Cabinet — Briand Becomes Premier of France and Reparations Conference Opens.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

Congress took action on two important and interesting matters last week. One of these related to the national defense. The senate, which had voted for reduction of the strength of the army to 150,000 men, reconsidered its vote and repassed the New resolution directing the secretary of war to suspend enlistments until a reduction to 175,000 men was accomplished. The house promptly passed a similar resolution almost unanimously, and the measure went to the President. It was expected, in view of the opposition of the war department, that Mr. Wilson would veto it, and that congress would pass it over the veto.

This is supposed to be a measure of economy which will save about forty million dollars a year to the government. The senate was restrained from being even more economical only by representations from Secretary of War Baker that the 150,000 limit would upset the department's plans for army organization, and from General Pershing that 200,000 men was the bottom limit of safety. Of course the senators in this connection debated the "yellow peril." Phelan of California asserted the necessity for large garrisons in Pacific possessions was greater now than during the war, while Reed and Williams ridiculed the danger and said Japan never would dare to attack the United States without the assistance of Great Britain.

It is likely that the latter view is that generally held in America, except by the people of the Pacific coast, to whom the Japanese peril looms large. It accords, also, with the expert opinion of the German Admiral Scheer, who says it would be almost impossible for Japan to land an army on American soil. Some people have grown excited over the murder of an American navy lieutenant by a Japanese sentry in Vladivostok. There is no doubt that this affair will be settled diplomatically, though the sharp note from Washington, virtually questioning Japan's right in the Siberian city, may result in an arid exchange. The arbitrary actions of the Japanese authorities in Vladivostok, which they hold under military rule, have caused a good deal of irritation—but the government in Tokyo is too smooth to permit them to lead to hostilities with the United States.

The other interesting congressional action was taken by the house on Wednesday, when it decided by a vote of 267 to 76, that during the next ten years it shall be composed of the same number of representatives as now—435. The plan of apportionment adopted provides that eight states shall gain in representation and eleven lose. California gets three more members, Ohio and Michigan two more each, and New Jersey, Connecticut, North Carolina, Texas and Washington one each. The losers are Missouri, two; and Iowa, Indiana, Kentucky, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, Nebraska, Rhode Island and Vermont, one each. Because the population has been drifting from the farm to the city, the agricultural constituencies of the West and South are the ones that suffer most in loss of representation. The congressmen from those regions were the chief opponents of the measure, and their main argument was that the census, being taken during the war period when the young men of the country had been drafted or attracted to the cities by high wages, was unfair. They contended that a new census, taken after readjustment was complete, would show that the farming states had recovered their lost population.

Always, when reapportionment is in order, the South fears that it will suffer through application of the constitutional provision which authorizes the house to reduce representation from any state that denies or abridges the right to citizens of the United States to vote. This time Thakam of Massachusetts sought to have the provision written into the bill, asserting that several southern states denied their negro citizens the right of suffrage. But nothing came of it and the South breathed easier.

Mr. Harding has departed for Florida without making public his cabinet selections, but before leaving Marlon he said he might be able to announce the personnel of his official family after settling down in St. Augustine next month. He declined to discuss the attempt of certain senators and others to induce him to substitute Elihu Root for Charles E. Hughes as secretary of state, and indeed he never has said that he had chosen Mr. Hughes for that place, though it is taken for granted by some of the correspondents. One rumor Mr. Harding did dispose of—that there would be a Democrat in his cabinet. He said the members would all be Republicans, but would not be selected solely because of party obligations. Fred Upham, treasurer of the Republican national committee, is responsible for the statement that one and possibly two members of the cabinet will be from the South.

The Republican majority in the senate has decided that no more of President Wilson's army and navy appointments shall be confirmed, with the exception of some 5,000 minor officers commissioned under the army reorganization act. The appointments of eleven major generals and of hundreds of high army and navy officials in bureaus and departments will not be acted on. They will be left for the Harding administration to handle.

Congressional committees are after A. Mitchell Palmer, with the purpose of at least giving him an unpleasant quarter of an hour. Last week the attorney general was called before the senate judiciary subcommittee to reply to charges of illegal and unauthorized practices by the Department of Justice in its activities against the Reds. Ostensibly, Mr. Palmer was summoned merely to express his opinion of Senator France's resolution for a general amnesty for political prisoners. He opposed the resolution because, he said, the government was already doing all it could in this line; he favored the repeal of the espionage act, but said there should be permanent legislation to protect the government from violent radicals. The France resolution strongly condemns the practices of the department of justice, and in reply Mr. Palmer made sweeping denials of the charges and produced reports of his agents to prove them unfounded.

Samuel Untermyer recently accused the attorney general of malfeasance. In an interview Mr. Palmer said he did not know "how far Mr. Untermyer is actuated in his present attack by the recent conviction of his friend and former associate, a member of the New York bar, for conspiracy to violate the trading with the enemy act, in a case in which Mr. Untermyer very earnestly pressed me to withhold action at the beginning."

Mr. Palmer says that Untermyer was opposed to taking over enemy property and once threatened him when, as alien property custodian, he declined to yield to the lawyer's requests.

Aristide Briand has been made premier of France, has named a strong cabinet and has been assured of the support of all parties except the Radicals, giving him a majority of about 400 in the chamber. He has himself taken the portfolio of foreign affairs, and on Thursday he read to parliament the cabinet's declaration of policy.

This paved the way for the conference of the allied premiers, in session this week in Paris. The subjects under discussion are reparations and disarmament of Germany, Austria and Turkey, and the affairs of Greece. The matter of reparations is the most serious, and it was expected Lloyd George and Briand would find difficulty in reaching an accord on it. A story from Berlin that the British and French had arrived at a new basis for negotiating the reparations question, was denied by British officials, who said the "lump sum" policy remained in force, though a plan for five-year annual payments is being discussed. There is no likelihood that any of the pleas of Germany will be granted.

The official German report on the carrying out of the terms of the Versailles treaty has been completed, and asserts that the total value of the property so far turned over to the entente is \$5,000,000,000. By far the largest single item is the merchant fleet of more than 4,500,000 tons, valued at \$2,000,000,000.

Though the story has not yet been confirmed from any source, mention must be made of the report from Berlin by way of Paris that the Dutch government has asked the members of the former Kaiser's family to leave Holland. The government is said to have come into possession of documents proving that the Hohenzollerns were preparing for a coup d'etat for their restoration. The former crown prince, it was discovered, was to pass into Germany and enter Berlin at the head of troops that have remained faithful to the Hohenzollern dynasty.

The Berlin correspondent of the London Times says a Prussian royalist party has been formed and plans to bring the "Orpesh" into line with similar movements in other German states. These stories are in accord with others that have appeared recently giving in great detail the plans for the restoration of the empire under Wilhelm or one of his sons. Ludendorff is said to be the actual head of the general movement.

There is no rift in the black clouds that overhang Austria. The Austrian section of the reparations committee, which expects to report to the allied premiers this week, are said to argue that the situation must be remedied by stringent measures to bring about the free interchange of products between Czechoslovakia, Roumania, Austria and Hungary, or Austria is doomed to starve, unless the world is willing to continue to feed it through charity.

The workers of Austria, who demand the stopping of profiteering, also demand a plebiscite on the question of fusion with Germany—which the peace treaty forbids. Finance Minister Glin in a speech last week declared that union with Germany would be brought about of necessity, perhaps by means of a revolution, unless foreign credits to Austria were soon forthcoming.

Bishop Cahan of Cork takes a pessimistic view of the Irish situation, saying he sees no prospect of peace. Nor is there any so long as the Irish persist in their demand for independence and so long as the present British government lives. The British authorities are making this plain in every way possible. Not a day passes without raids in Ireland in which militant republicans are captured and arms seized, and on Thursday a number of Sinn Fein centers in London were raided. Ambushing and slaying of officers by the Irish also continues, and now the government is making official the reprisals hitherto only condoned. In Cork two houses where members of the constabulary were attacked were destroyed by the military forces. The British military authorities in Dublin have issued a proclamation declaring that if bomb and firearm attacks on crown forces in motor cars do not cease, "known rebels will be carried as hostages for the safe conduct of the occupants of all motor vehicles which are the property of the armed forces of the crown."

Lord Mayor O'Callaghan of Cork, who came to America as a stowaway, and whose deportation was decided on by the State department, despite the opposition of the Labor department, intends to carry the case to the Supreme court if possible. Meanwhile he has told his story to the unofficial committee on Irish affairs. Another witness heard last week calls himself the "co-sponsor of the Irish republic," and the self-constituted committee of mediators carefully so addressed him by that title.

Shot Twice By Yeggs.
Chicago.—Patrolman A. Creagh was shot twice by five holdup men in an attempted robbery, but drove off his assailants and saved a \$5,500 packet while acting as a bodyguard to an employee of a printing firm.

Ford Still Gaining.
Washington.—Henry Ford has a regain of 2,191 votes on Senator Newberry, Republican, in the 1921 precincts, including Oakland County, according to the State election board.

Big Wage Increase.
Washington.—Wages of hired men on farms have more than doubled in the last 10 years, tripled in the last 20 years, and were more than four times higher last year than they were in 1879. These changes are shown by statistics of the department of agriculture.

Janger Daring Dies.
Chicago.—James Janger, a daring thief, died in prison after a long illness.

Obregon Would Indemnify Individuals for Losses During Revolution.
Mexico City.—Recommendation that the Mexican government pay indemnities for damages sustained by individuals and companies during revolutionary periods in this country will be made to the Mexican congress by President Obregon. This announcement was made during a conference between the president and members of a legal commission which has been studying several projects which will be submitted to the extraordinary session of congress.

British Heroes Get American D. S. C.
Washington.—Citations on which the distinguished service cross has been awarded by order of the president to an officer and four enlisted men of the British army for gallantry displayed in connection with operations of the Thirtieth American division in France, were made public by the war department. The Thirtieth division was composed of national guardsmen from North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

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KY. NIGHT RIDERS RAID BURLEY FARMS

TOBACCO GROWERS WARNED NOT TO MARKET MORE TOBACCO UNTIL PRICES RISE.

THREATEN TO BURN BARNS

Must Not Haul Tobacco, Rent Farms for Raising of Weed or Grow Any Themselves, Band Tells Farmers.

Lexington, Ky.—Nightriders visited farmers in Bath and Fleming counties and warned them not to haul any more tobacco to market until prices went higher, according to reports received here. The reports received from Mount Sterling, Carlisle and Flemingsburg, said that the growers were warned that their barns would be burned and that they would be dealt with severely unless they complied.

The band, consisting of 25 or 30 masked men, visited farmers near Sherbourne, in Fleming county, 12 miles from Flemingsburg, and Bethel, in Bath county, 12 miles from Carlisle. In all about 75 farmers were visited, although the names of only five were disclosed to authorities.

T. S. Robertson, wealthy farmer, near Bethel, was called to his door according to a report from Carlisle. Four men standing with their backs to him warned him that he was not to haul any more tobacco; neither was he to rent any of his farms for tobacco raising, nor raise any himself. The warning was accompanied by threats of violence to himself and his property, if he failed to obey.

Thomas Croath, Jake Boyd, and a farmer named Stevens were then visited and the warning repeated. The band next showed up near Sherbourne, in Fleming county, and warned two farmers named Shields and Tomlin. They are known to have visited three other farmers, but when the occupants came to the door they laughed and said they were "looking for a doctor."

CALDER BILL ATTACKED.

Coal Men Say It Places Too Many Restrictions.

Washington.—The Calder bill for federal regulation of the coal industry was attacked by coal men but endorsed in part by one congressman and a government official during Senate hearings.

"The people up in my home city of Buffalo have to get a doctor's prescription before they can buy anthracite coal," Representative James M. Mead, Democrat, New York, asserted, pleading for some form of regulation of the industry. "Doctors are overworked now, too, because they have to give prescriptions for liquid heat."

Ex-Gov. Oakley C. Curtis of Maine informed the committee he was "a coal man now, but I don't know what I'll be under this bill." Later he added that "no member of this committee, meaning no disrespect to it, has information enough about the industry to bring out the facts from all the witnesses."

FISH MEN SEEK TARIFF.

Invested Heavily When Hoover Asked Nation to 'Eat Fish.'

Washington.—Congressional action which would permit the president to act to offset discriminatory tariffs of foreign governments was suggested to the house ways and means committee recently, which also was asked to protect investments in the fishing industry caused, it was said, by Herbert Hoover's war-time food policies.

ASK MEXICO TO PAY.

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SAYS WORLD WOULD DISARM

Henry White Tells Committee Time Is Now Ripe for World Disarmament.

Washington.—Another of the American commissioners who helped draft the treaty of Versailles—Henry White—ambassador to France under President Roosevelt, told the committee that the time was ripe for world disarmament and that the United States should initiate the movement.

Gen. Pershing's views will be sought. The committee already has heard Gen. Tasker H. Bliss, former American representative on the supreme war council and a member of the peace delegation; Secretary Daniels and Acting Secretary Davis of the state department. Whether it will hold further hearings has not been determined.

Mr. White gave it as his opinion that the great burden of taxation resulting from the world war made the people of all nations anxious to cut down on expenditures for armaments.

DID WORLD GREAT SERVICE

Prof. Scott Commends Commission That Opposed the Hohenzollern Trial.

Philadelphia.—The American commission to negotiate peace rendered a service to the world at large in standing as a rock against the trial of William Hohenzollern former emperor of Germany for a legal offense, said Prof. James Brown Scott of Cornell University, in an address before the Philadelphia Public Ledger Forum on the peace conference.

Comparing the flight of William Hohenzollern with the abdication and subsequent surrender of his enemies of Napoleon Bonaparte, the speaker said:

"How much better it would have been for the world if royal fugitives had always escaped and had not been so stupid as to fall into the hands of their enemies. It may be said that the best way to restore a dynasty seems to be to decapitate its ruler. Stranger things could happen than the restoration of the house of Hohenzollern in the person of the Kaiser's grandson."

BIG EXPLOSION WRECKS PLANT.

4 Tanks Explode in Sinclair Oil Plant. 3 Others Expected to Go.

Memphis.—Fifteen or more persons are believed to have perished in the series of explosions that wrecked the plant of the Sinclair Oil Co. here.

In some manner a gasoline tank ignited and exploded. This was followed by the explosion of three other tanks. Firemen believe that three other tanks will go up.

More than a dozen houses were destroyed in the first explosion and the shock was felt in the whole of the uptown business district. It is reported a mother and five children were killed in one house.

FEAR 56 GO DOWN IN SUBMARINE

Sinks During Manuevers—All Aboard Are Lost.

London.—Mystery continued to surround the loss of submarine K-5, which was sunk in the English channel. The disaster occurred during submarine maneuvers about 100 miles off Land's End. The K-5 was in charge of Lieut. Commander John A. Gaites.

The admiralty announcement merely stated that the submarine had been lost with all hands. While nothing was said of the size of the complement, vessels of her class usually carry six officers and 50 men.

Duties Net U. S. \$337,000,000.

Washington.—The United States collected revenues amounting to approximately \$337,000,000 in 1920 on imported goods, valued at \$2,188,000,000.

WORTH 19,000 ROUBLES.

\$1 Has Extraordinary Value Computed in Soviet Money.

Washington.—One dollar may have only the purchasing power of 50 cents in the United States, but in Central Europe it is the equivalent of 19,000 rubles; 255 Latvian rubles; 750 Duma rubles; 285 Estonian rubles, and 163 czar rubles. These are the official rates on the border. In the unofficial or open market an American dollar will purchase from two to three times the number quoted officially.

Savannah Honors Negro.

Savannah, Ga.—For the first time in the history of the Savannah Cotton Exchange its flag was displayed at half mast in honor of a negro, Philip Smith, who after 40 years' service as a porter at the exchange, died here recently. Philip's most treasured possession was a book which contained the signatures of all notables who had visited the exchange for many years, including those of several presidents of the United States.

SOME FACTS ABOUT THE PHILIPPINES

The University of Santo Tomas is 26 years older than Harvard.

The Filipino people number 10,350,840, of which 9,495,272 are Christians and only 9 per cent non-Christians.

They have been Christians for 800 years and have a culture and refinement that will compare very favorably with that of other nations.

There are only 6,684 Japanese in the Philippines. There are about 100,000 Japanese in California alone, or 15 times as many as in the entire Philippine archipelago.

English is taught exclusively in the Philippine public schools. Two million natives now speak English fluently, and there are 700,000 English speaking children in the public schools. It is destined to be the national language.

Seventy per cent of the inhabitants of the Philippines over ten years of age, according to a census just completed, are literate. This is a higher percentage of literacy than that of any South American country, higher than that of Spain and higher than that of any of the new republics of Europe whose independence is being guaranteed by the Allies.

The Filipino people are unanimous in their desire for independence. Whenever they are called upon to deposit their ballots they have always ratified this aspiration. At every session before adjournment their representatives in the Legislature reiterate their faith in the principles of liberty and the independence of the Filipino people.

The Filipinos declare they have no grudge or grievance against the American people. Their appeal is accompanied by a message of friendship and gratitude for all that America has done for them. They point out that Uncle Sam gave independence to Cuba, and they hope that they, too, will receive that boon without which, they declare, no civilized and patriotic people can enjoy the maximum of happiness and self-respect.

A special delegation of Filipinos, officially representing the Filipino people, attended the Republican and Democratic National conventions, seeking an endorsement of the Filipino desire for independence in the two platforms. Their arguments, briefly stated, were as follows:

First.—That the American Declaration of Independence declares that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed.

Second.—That the American Congress, in the Jones law, solemnly promised the Philippines independence upon the establishment of a stable government, and that their claim that the stable government is now in existence in the islands has been officially confirmed by America's own representatives there; and

Third.—That America went before the world in the recent war as the avowed champion of "self determination." American soldiers having been told it was one of the things they were fighting for.

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